

Introduced by Senators Sher and Burton

January 30, 2003

Senate Joint Resolution No. 5—Relative to the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 5, as introduced, Sher. Giant Sequoia National Monument.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress to take necessary action to protect the Giant Sequoia National Monument by prohibiting commercial logging in all parts of the monument.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The Giant Sequoia National Monument was
2 established on April 15, 2000, by a Presidential Proclamation duly
3 executed under the Antiquities Act; and

4 WHEREAS, The Giant Sequoia National Monument is a
5 diverse landscape containing groves of majestic Giant Sequoia,
6 the largest trees in the world and the sentinel trees of the Sierra
7 Nevada; and

8 WHEREAS, The Giant Sequoia National Monument is home to
9 numerous species of wildlife including Pacific fisher, black bear,
10 California spotted owl, mountain lions, peregrine falcons, Great
11 Grey Owl, and a number of rare amphibians; and

12 WHEREAS, Giant Sequoias are the only known trees large
13 enough to provide nesting habitat for the endangered California
14 condor and remain available as potential habitat for this species;
15 and

1 WHEREAS, Giant Sequoias are the largest trees ever to have
2 lived, and rank among the world's longest lived trees, reaching
3 ages greater than 3,200 years; and

4 WHEREAS, Native Americans have lived for more than 8,000
5 years in the Sierra, with archaeological sites, petroglyphs, and
6 pictographs evident within the monument; and

7 WHEREAS, The Presidential Proclamation of April 15, 2000,
8 established a monument boundary of 327,769 acres to be managed
9 by the United States Forest Service for the purposes of protecting
10 the whole of the Giant Sequoia ecosystem; and

11 WHEREAS, The proclamation prohibited commercial timber
12 harvesting within the monument and, except for personal
13 firewood, limited the removal of trees to ecological restoration and
14 maintenance of public safety; and

15 WHEREAS, The United States Forest Service has ignored this
16 direction in preparing a management plan for the Giant Sequoia
17 National Monument; and

18 WHEREAS, Nothing in the proclamation diminishes the
19 jurisdiction of the State of California with respect to fish and
20 wildlife; and

21 WHEREAS, The environmental consequences of logging in the
22 monument far outweigh the benefits of timber production; and

23 WHEREAS, Every effort should be made to protect the Giant
24 Sequoia ecosystem as required by Presidential Proclamation; now,
25 therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California,*
27 *jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California
28 memorializes the President and Congress to take necessary action
29 to protect the Giant Sequoia National Monument by prohibiting
30 commercial logging in all parts of the monument, as set forth in the
31 Presidential Proclamation establishing the monument; and be it
32 further

33 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
34 this resolution to the President of the United States, to all Members
35 of the Congress of the United States, and to the Secretary of
36 Agriculture.

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